

sense of diligence. It is to that the Apostle draws our attention. It does not make much difference where you are in life...the challenge is to order things in a disciplined manner.

So when we speak of "ruling with diligence" we are talking about learning to order the affairs of life carefully. As one is able to do this with private or lesser affairs one may be promoted to areas of greater responsibility. But as with many other of these "lesser gifts" it is accounted that we will all be involved with them and as we are the depth to which we may perform will become more apparent.

B. Discussion

In the process of learning to order the affairs of life carefully, the following considerations are instructive:

1. Ruling: what is it?

Working from the terms used we may say that it is the matter or ordering a course of action in accord with and for the will of God. It is the arrangement of things in a biblically prescribed pattern for the glorification of God through their accomplishment. All persons in the Christian community have responsibilities that begin with matters of personal life and build to things related to the community life. Levels of authority begin small and climb to the responsibilities God gives. While we think the sisters are not the leaders of the church they are called (1 Tim. 5:14) the "despots" of the house and they have definite ruling positions there, in keeping with the biblical injunctions of headship. While we often think of the responsibility of elders in ruling there is a similar responsibility in being ruled and both cases call for diligence in ordering a course of action for God. A Sunday School teacher has a ruling responsibility..a choir leader, a song leader, and we could name one category after another. If you are not in one of these categories, you are not relieved of the